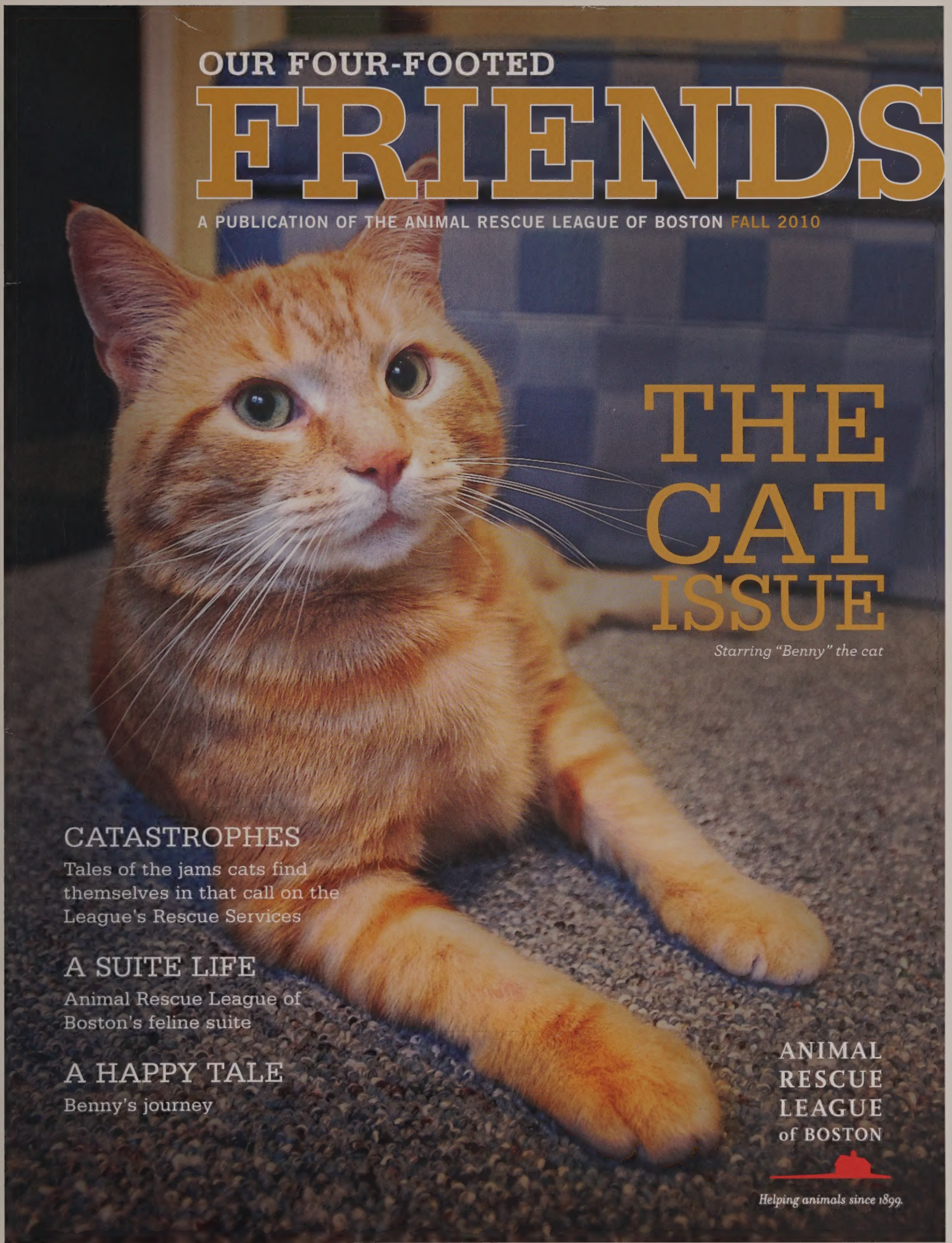

OUR FOUR-FOOTED

FRIENDS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON FALL 2010

THE CAT ISSUE

Starring "Benny" the cat

CATASTROPHES

Tales of the jams cats find themselves in that call on the League's Rescue Services

A SUITE LIFE

Animal Rescue League of Boston's feline suite

A HAPPY TALE

Benny's journey

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON

Helping animals since 1899.

VOLUME 108, FALL 2010

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The Animal Rescue League of Boston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment and neglect. We do not receive any state or federal funding and rely solely upon the generosity of our donors.

SIDNEY 1990-2010

This issue of *Our Four-Footed Friends* Magazine is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend Sidney, the ARL of Boston's first foster cat. Sidney and her litter of kittens were lovingly cared for by Dedham Assistant Manager Beth Finn in 2000. Over the past ten years, thousands of lives have been saved by the League's dedicated network of foster families who have provided care and kindness to countless animals.

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SAMMIE: Pine Ridge Pet Cemetery Liaison Anat Sagi shares her office with foster cat Sammie, a 2-year-old orange tabby. Animals in need of extra love and attention often share space with ARL of Boston employees as part of the League's office foster program.

Fall10

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I currently share my home with a seven-year-old feline named Fresco – a spirited but tender soul – who brings great joy to my life. In many ways, life with her has been a new experience for me, having grown up in a canine-centric household where my siblings and I were taught by our parents to respect all God's creatures great and small.

The cats entering the three shelters of the Animal Rescue League of Boston arrive for a host of reasons, and thousands begin their journey to a forever home with us. This issue of *Our Four-Footed Friends* is dedicated to telling you some of their stories, demonstrating the collaborative spirit underlying their care, and sharing some of the joys and challenges we experience together.

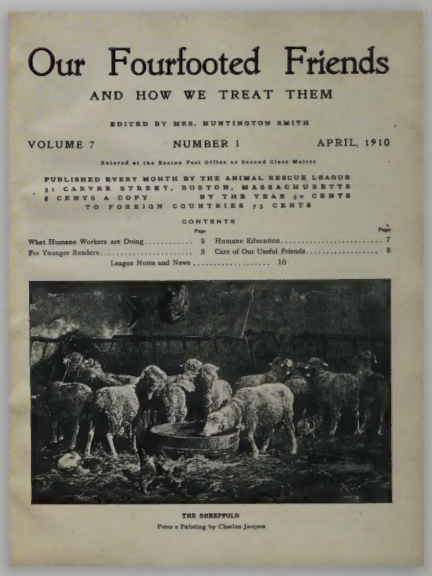
Upon arrival, a dedicated Shelter Medicine team treats each cat's unique injuries or medical conditions, including engaging outside veterinary specialists and facilities when necessary. We are also fortunate to have a core group of volunteers who assist our staff in ensuring that time is devoted to interacting with every cat in our care: be it time to play, freedom to roam our "Feline Suite", spending time in foster care or in our administrative offices when extra love and attention is necessary.

Last year, we worked with Dr. Sandra Newbury from the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Newbury is a nationally recognized expert in shelter systems. She conducted an in-depth analysis of our Boston program and provided us with a number of helpful recommendations that have improved our efficiency and reduced the length of stay of cats.

In this issue you will meet Benny whose story united and inspired us. Benny now spends his days roaming around in his new "home office", enjoying long, peaceful naps and undoubtedly sharing many a quiet, everyday moment with the family who loves him.

As always, I appreciate all the wonderful people who help us fulfill our important mission. Together we are helping to make this a better world for animals and their human companions.

John J. Bonsignore



Our Fourfooted Friends

AND HOW WE TREAT THEM

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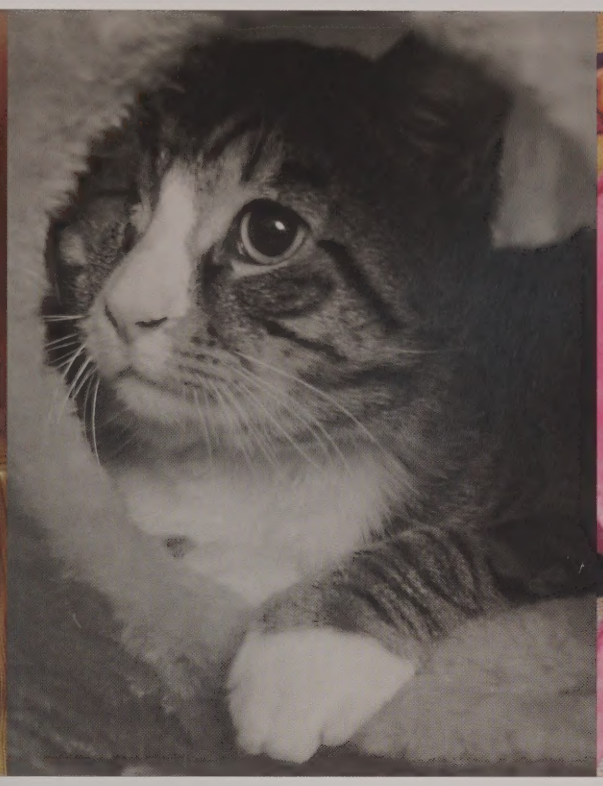
THE SHEEPFOLD

From a Painting by Charles Jacques

Our Fourfooted Friends, c. 1910.



SENIORS FOR SENIORS

IF YOU'RE OVER 60 AND LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL CANINE OR FELINE FRIEND TO MAKE YOUR HOME COMPLETE, THE ARL OF BOSTON HAS A SPECIAL DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR "SENIORS ADOPTING SENIORS." JANE NATHANSON, A SOCIAL WORK AND REHABILITATION CONSULTANT SPECIALIZING IN HUMAN-ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE, NOTES THAT FOR MANY SENIORS, HAVING A PET CAN ADD NEW MEANING TO LIFE.

"**OFTENTIMES**, elders may experience distressing times of loneliness, especially in the absence of loving and caring friends or family. It becomes all the more fulfilling for many older adults to have the on-going comfort of a companion animal. The pleasurable interaction and mutual nurturance become physically as well as emotionally beneficial," says Nathanson. In many cases, owning a pet has helped lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels, reduce cardiovascular disease, reduce feelings of stress and loneliness, while increasing a sense of responsibility and alertness, daily activity and fun.

The League's normal cost to adopt an adult cat is $100 and an adult dog is $185. However, for seniors the price for an adult cat one-to-four years old is $90 and a cat five years old or older is $50. The seniors' price for one-to-four year old dogs is $ 166.50 and $92.50 for dogs five years old and older. (Kittens and puppies are not eligible for the "Seniors for Seniors" discount.)

Boston Shelter Manager Marianne Gasbarro explains that older animals are often a most appropriate match for their human senior counterparts. "Unlike kittens and puppies most older pets are house (litter box) trained. They've usually learned acceptable behaviors and don't engage in those that are not. Dogs have gone through the teething stage and cats have already learned how to use – and not to use – their claws."

In addition, older pets require less time and energy and are usually content to curl up with you and snuggle in for a long nap. "Their behavior and personality is predictable so you usually know what you're getting when you adopt."

Gasbarro notes that all animals up for adoption at the League have been evaluated by staff, volunteers, and in some cases foster parents, as to their suitability for adoption. "For nearly all of the animals in our care we have a brief write up detailing the animal's history, character and ideal home environment," she says. "Our goal is to find just the right home for the right animal."

She concludes, "If you know of someone who's been thinking about getting a cat for a while, maybe give them an extra nudge to stop down and visit. Also contact your friends to let them know about the wonderful cats we have waiting for a family. Hopefully by all working together we can help to find many of them a home"

CATASTROPHES

FROM TREES AND STORM DRAINS TO CAR ENGINES THERE'S NO END TO THE JAMS CATS FIND THEMSELVES IN THAT CALL FOR THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S RESCUE SERVICES. IN FACT, IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS NEARLY 2,500 CATS HAVE BEEN RESCUED. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THEIR STORIES.

Found Cat Gets Face Repair

Last November, Rescue Agent Katja Cunio caught a fearful, suffering, emaciated and flea-and-tick-infested cat in the marsh at Millennium Park in Roslindale. A microchip identified him as "Sammie," an adoptee from Dedham who had been inadvertently let out by a house guest in March and hadn't been seen since. BVC veterinarian Dr. Hugh Davis discovered that Sammie had such a severe lower jaw injury (his left canine tooth was sticking out of the right side of his mouth) that he couldn't close his mouth to eat or swallow. Sammie stayed at Dr. Davis' home and then at BVC where he was hand fed (at first through a syringe) to gain some weight. He then underwent surgical repair of his jaw and was returned to his overjoyed family.

"Stormy" Kitten Feeling Drained

Called to rescue a kitten in a storm drain, Senior Rescue Technician Mark Vogel, Rescue Services Assistant Manager Mike Brammer and Director of the League's Center for Animal Protection Lt. Alan Borgal, could hear her faintly meowing. To see the kitten, they obtained a special camera to snake through a system of three drains over 80 feet in length. They found the kitten about 50 feet away but the elusive tyke moved away and they had to find her again. Maneuvering a flexible snare pole into the drain, Vogel felt a weight on the end of the loop and managed to pull the very muddy kitten free. He cleaned her up, wrapped her in a towel and brought her back to be evaluated. She was named "Stormy" and eventually adopted.

Maxwell and the Cement Tank

On June 3, 2009, Brian O'Connor and Mike Brammer responded to a panicked call from a family whose cat Maxwell had fallen into a cement drainage tank through an access pipe just big enough for a cat to crawl into at the side of the house. There were no access passageways to the tank, so that the only way into the tank would be to break in – ideally without tearing out the bushes and smashing down the entire cement wall.

"This five-hour rescue took a lot of manual labor to dig a hole big enough for access into the tank and Mike and I were both sore the next day," says O'Connor. "We managed to make a hole in the tank big enough for me to fit my arm and head in. I then set up a wooden ramp inside to the hole and suggested that the owners stand outside and call the cat's name. Sure enough she came bounding up the ramp and right into her owners' arms."

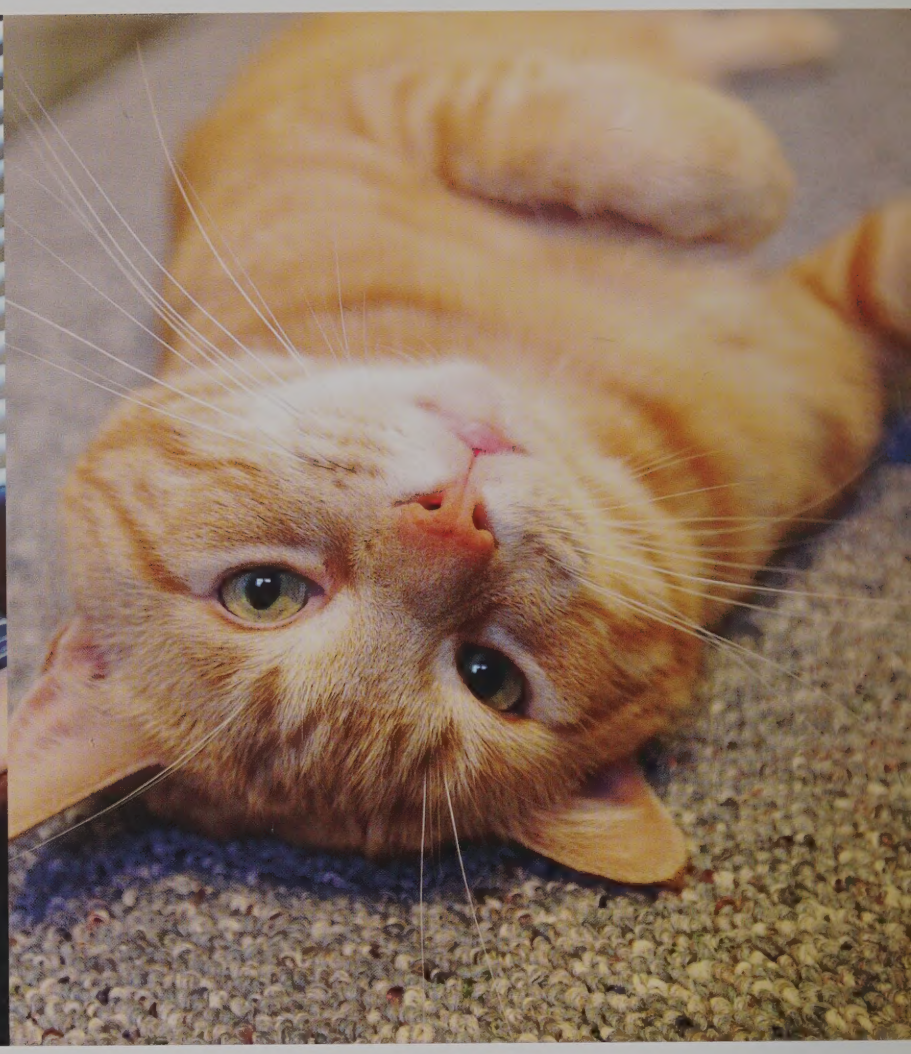
Two Tall, Shaky Trees, One Small Cat

A 4-year-old short hair grey cat named Rocky stuck 65 feet up a tree in Holliston for three days was rescued by Senior Rescue Technician Mark Vogel and Ashland Animal Control Officer Alan Johnson who climbed up the tree to rescue the cat. Complicating the rescue, the tree in which Rocky had climbed was not particularly stable. Vogel's solution was to cinch two trees together to keep them from swaying so much, then Johnson – with a shrimp-filled cat carrier—was able to climb to where the cat was and make a grab for him.

Kitten in a Wheel Well

A frantic woman called us for help after she watched a stray kitten run through a parking lot and scurry under a minivan. When Senior Rescue Technician Danielle Gentner arrived, she found the frightened kitty stuck in the suspension spring above the driver's side tire. The mini van was slowly lifted with a jack as Gentner kept hold of the kitten to keep her from dashing out onto a busy street. Soon the spring was elongated enough to allow Genter to safely remove the kitten, who was taken to Boston, fed, vaccinated, dubbed "Jelly Bean" and eventually adopted.

JANE WILLIS AND RICH DAVEY WITH BENNY



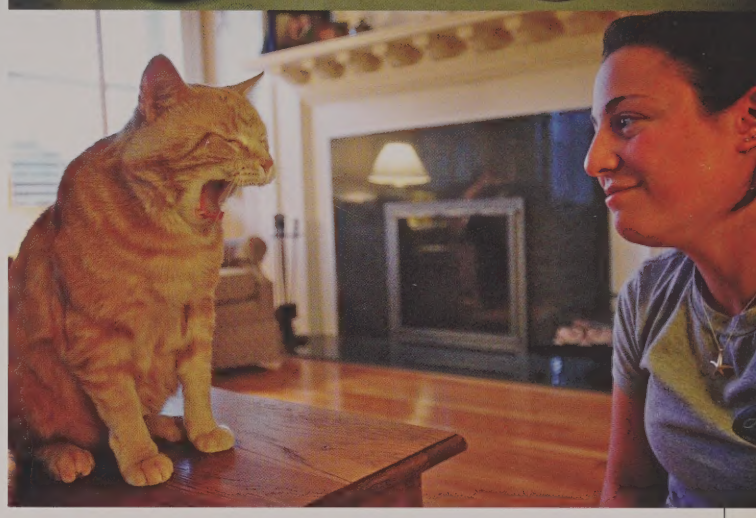
"We had in mind we were going to adopt an older cat – maybe one that lost a longtime owner. Benny is believed to have been a stray cat – which wasn't what we were thinking of – but then I researched the fact he had FIV and determined he could live a healthy life and that we could care for him here in our home."

JANE WILLIS

A HAPPY TALE

WHEN RANDALL, a stray cat found in a hallway arrived at the Animal Rescue League of Boston's South End shelter on New Year's Eve, he had all of the qualities of a highly adoptable cat – friendly, lovable and, in the words of a volunteer, "a big orange teddy bear." Although immediately personable and handsome, Randall's blood work indicated that he was also FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) positive. But thanks to the dedicated cross-departmental work of the Shelter Medicine Deptment, Boston Adoption staff and the volunteers who fell in love with him (and an equally special human family) he found a wonderful forever home on Valentine's Day.

Staff and volunteers were overjoyed on Randall's adoption day. L to R: Boston volunteer Amy Eisenman, Adoption Agent Sarah Jones, volunteer Susie Festel (kneeling, front row), volunteer Dann Brown, adopters Rich Davey and Jane Willis, Adoption Agent Amy Webb, Adoption Supervisor Caitlin Berkery (front row, kneeling) and Adoption Agent Sara Michael. ARL of Boston volunteer Amy Eisenman visits Benny in his new home. (below)



"As is the case now with HIV in humans, a positive test for FIV is not a mandatory death sentence. With a high protein diet and aggressive treatment of secondary infections, an FIV+ cat can lead a reasonably normal life span," explains Dr. Erin Doyle, veterinarian with the ARL of Boston's Shelter's Veterinary Medicine department.

"Finding a good home for an FIV+ cat is not easy, because people are reluctant to take on a special-needs cat with an uncertain future," admits Dr. Martha Smith, director of Veterinary Medical Services. "In our commitment to full disclosure, we feel it's important to provide prospective adopters with information on what could go wrong in the future because of the cat's innate vulnerability." Among the risks: secondary bacterial infections, a tendency toward periodontal disease requiring more aggressive and frequent dental cleanings, susceptibility to blood-borne infections and anemia, and even a type of heart disease.

Randall's case also presented some tough ethical questions to the staff: With his weakened immune system, was it right to keep him in the shelter where he might pick up a secondary infection common in a shelter environment? And with limited space available, was it right to reserve a cage for a cat that would likely take longer to adopt?

"Definitely, timing was a factor," explains Boston Shelter Manager Marianne Gasbarro. "January, February and March are our quietest months and most ideal for taking on animals with special needs. We also felt that with Randall's wonderful personality, his FIV status might not particularly lengthen the time it took to find him a home. He had a committed group of fans – volunteers and staff – who worked hard to 'market' him to prospective adopters, and our efforts paid off as he has the perfect family."

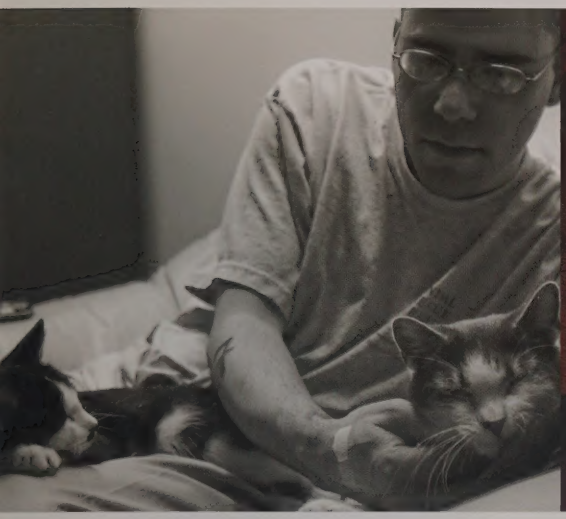
Enter adopters Rich Davey and Jane Willis, who renamed him Benny. "We had in mind we were going to adopt an older cat – maybe one that lost a longtime owner. Benny is believed to have been a stray cat – which wasn't what we were thinking of – but then I researched the fact he had FIV and determined he could live a healthy life and that we could care for him here in our home."

Smith notes that Willis and Davey were willing to learn about his risks and live with the idea that he's a healthy, normal cat today and he may be that cat for the next 10 years – but he could get in trouble at any point in time before then. She concludes, "They're willing to live with the unknown, and that makes them very special." Which is just what a cat as special as Benny needed.

FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS is a retroviral disease of cats very similar to HIV in people. FIV is not typically fatal for cats, as they can live relatively healthily as carriers and transmitters of the disease for many years. FIV positive cats are less likely to develop AIDS-like symptoms than HIV positive people, even without the use of anti-viral drugs. Humans cannot be infected by FIV. FIV is transmitted by deep bite wounds and scratches, where the infected cat's saliva enters the other cat's bloodstream. This happens most often during territorial battles between males. FIV may also be transmitted from pregnant females to their offspring. FIV affects 2–3% of cats in the US. Spaying or neutering cats seems to effectively control transmission, as neutered cats are less likely to engage in territorial fights. A vigilant pet owner can assist an infected cat in living a reasonably long life. The disease occurs in three stages. First is the Acute Stage (1–2 months after transmission) in which fever, depression, and enlarged lymph nodes are observed. Second is the Subclinical Stage in which symptoms of the disease decrease or disappear for months to years. Third is the Chronic Stage, in which cats eventually succumb to chronic infections due to suppressed immune system function. Cats may incur oral infections, respiratory infections, gastrointestinal infections, dermatitis and heart disease in the later stages of infection.

a suite life

AFTER A FEW WEEKS at the Animal Rescue League of Boston's adoption center, 4-year-old Nico was going stir crazy. This cuddly cat needed some time away from her cage, so staff and volunteers took her for regular visits to the shelter's cat playroom or "feline suite." For cats awaiting a permanent home, the suite is the next best thing: a comfortable space with cat trees, a sofa, and a wall of windows.



ARL OF BOSTON volunteer Dann Brown spends time with cats in Boston's special feline suite; a cat named Cameron enjoys the view; and volunteer Michelle Gelnaw, who ensures as many cats as possible enjoy quality time in the feline suite, pauses to enjoy a moment with a friend.

"Nico's downtime in the suite, away from the activity of the adoption room, helped keep her from developing negative behaviors in response to the stress of her three-month shelter stay," explains Melissa Tanguay, Boston assistant manager. "The suite was instrumental in her eventual adoption. It also demonstrates the League's commitment to providing cat enrichment opportunities beyond the occasional treat or catnip mouse."

At all three ARL of Boston branches, staff and volunteers learn as much as they can about the cats in their care. In February, the Dedham branch instituted "Feline-ality," a program developed by the ASPCA. Feline-ality includes an assessment of each cat's behavior and a survey of each adopter's preferences, resulting in a color-coded matchmaking system. Designed to bring compatible companions together, the system also helps shelter agents learn about a cat's activity level, desire for affection, and adaptability.

Not surprisingly, some cats need extra attention. Volunteers often spend a great deal of time working with shy cats, helping them adjust to shelter life and, more importantly, learn to trust people. Shelter residents in need of extended time on their own may be "office fostered" by ARL of Boston staff. These lucky felines interact with their human officemates during the day, and stay in the offices overnight.

For more outgoing cats, staff hold playgroups, letting a few residents out of their cages at a time to socialize. Highly energetic cats may get a chance to learn new behaviors through clicker training. In Brewster, cats convene in indoor/outdoor pens. "Cats who enjoy the company of other cats and the fresh air of the outdoors get to run around and play in a safe and controlled environment," says Brewster manager Sandra Luppi. "This way they have a lot more space to stretch and roll while basking in the warmth of the sun."

But most cats spend their time in the adoption areas, and the ARL of Boston is dedicated to making that time as stress-free as possible. Dedham's upcoming renovations will include new cat-housing units with built-in shelves and improved ventilation. But at all of the League's branches, smaller measures – like replacing solid doors with screen doors in cat-occupied rooms – are helping to create more feline-friendly spaces.

As Dedham's assistant manager Beth Finn says, "You never realize the importance of a room until you look at it from a cat's point of view."

BEST FRIENDS

IN EACH ISSUE OF *OUR FOUR-FOOTED FRIENDS,* WE HIGHLIGHT VOLUNTEERS WHOSE EXPERTISE, DEDICATION AND LOVE FOR ANIMALS DESERVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION. THE THREE EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEERS BELOW GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE ANIMALS IN OUR CARE.

"Fostering is the chance to take orphaned kittens or kittens who aren't doing well and help give them a good start—a good chance at life."

DOROTHY COHEN She Goes the Extra Mile

When it comes to caring for the animals that come into her life, eight-year Brewster volunteer Dorothy Cohen definitely goes the extra mile—hundreds of miles, in fact.

In addition to fostering hundreds of kittens, Dorothy also fostered "the sweetest" Lab/bloodhound named Hannu, who had hip dysplasia and needed surgery on both hips, necessitating his being driven back and forth from the Cape to Boston Veterinary Care at the League's South End headquarters several times over several months. She eventually adopted him.

"The first night after his first hip surgery, he was in a great deal of pain, and I stayed up with him all night crying," she says. "The recuperation from that first surgery took four months, and by that time I was totally infatuated."

Dorothy began volunteering at Brewster after moving up from Wilmington, Delaware, where she had volunteered at a shelter there.

"I felt at a bit of a loss, so I went to Brewster and asked, 'Do you need anyone to be a foster parent?'" And she's been fostering ever since, in addition to taking care of the Cohens' own three dogs and three cats.

"Dorothy is a godsend. She always comes through in a pinch," says Brewster Shelter Manager Sandy Luppi. "She has a heart of gold and is willing to do whatever it takes to help an animal."

"Fostering is the chance to take orphaned kittens or kittens who aren't doing well and help give them a good start—a good chance at life," Cohen says. And while she ended up adopting Hannu, "When it comes to kittens I can easily give them up because I know the Brewster shelter is such a special place and they'll find good homes for them."

"Stephanie understands our mission, she respects our staff, other volunteers and clients, and tackles difficult jobs with grace and patience."

STEPHANIE FERREIRA Grace & Patience Personified

Stephanie Ferreira is a long-time lover of animals and loyal ARL of Boston volunteer since early 2009. Stephanie spends her time working primarily with our shelter cats, helping with feeding, changing litter boxes, cleaning cages, and playing with and cuddling the adorable felines waiting for forever homes. Additionally, she assists staff with intake, making sure that when animals arrive at the shelter, they are put in a safe location and information about them is entered into the League's computer system.

"Stephanie is a wonderful volunteer who really understands our mission," says Boston Animal Care and Adoption Center Manager Marianne Gasbarro. "She respects our staff, other volunteers and clients, and tackles difficult jobs with grace and patience."After relocating to Cambridge from New Jersey, Stephanie met a League volunteer while walking her dog and decided to get involved. She currently has five cats: two she adopted before her move, one she took in from a friend who had rescued a litter of kittens, and two more that she adopted from the ARL of Boston. Her most recently adopted cat, Jonathan (formerly known as Cloud), first came to the League as a very shy male who needed a foster home. Stephanie fell in love with him and took him in. Shortly after, Jonathan developed diabetes, and she adopted him to make sure he would be cared for permanently in a loving home. She also has a "very cat-friendly" Bichon Frise named Fenway.

Stephanie enjoys being able to advocate for animals since they cannot speak for themselves. Her life has been enriched by the companionship and unconditional love of her pets and shelter animals.

"Every animal's life deserves to be valued and we need to always do right by the animal. That is what keeps me going as a volunteer."

KAREN PLESCIA Every Animal's Life is Valued

When Karen Plescia moved to Dedham, less than a mile from the ARL of Boston branch, she knew one thing: she wanted to foster cats. Her affection for fostering animals began when she became involved in an effort to TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) a Brighton cat colony a few years back, and "when two of the kittens needed fostering, I volunteered. It was a true joy." So offering to foster cats for the League, she says, was a "no brainer."

A volunteer since 2007, Karen says she'll do anything needed to help the animals. "Cleaning cages, walking dogs, assisting [ARL of Boston shelter veterinarian] Dr. Amanda Goeman, even working at event tables and off-site adoption events; you name it, I've done it. My true passion, though, is the foster program, and getting the animals out into the community so that people who might not normally go to a shelter can meet them and possibly give them a home." And who's to thank for Karen's undying dedication to the animals at ARL of Boston? "The animals themselves, of course! I learn so much from them about life, about animal behavior, about the bond we have with them, and about myself. I want to help in any way I can, to help as many animals as possible find their forever homes. One of the things I respect about the League is that they try to be progressive, and my hope is to contribute in ways that allow them to try new things so that they can save more lives."

Karen has learned so much in her three years working at the League's Dedham branch, the most important being that "every animal's life deserves to be valued and we need to always do right by the animal. That is what keeps me going as a volunteer."

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COOL TREATS

Boston Veterinary Care at the **Animal Rescue League of Boston** hosted its 3rd annual "**Ice Cream Social for Dogs**" this summer at the Joe Wex Dog Recreation Space at Peters Park in Boston's South End. Dogs enjoyed canine-friendly ice cream courtesy of **Polka Dog Bakery**, and their human companions kept cool with gelato. In this photo, Alice Doyle patiently waits for ice cream while a puppy first enjoys his.

FERAL FIX

As part of the League's ongoing effort to assist groups caring for greater Boston's feral cat population, the ARL of Boston held its 6th volunteer-run feral cat spay/neuter day of the year August 26. Headed by ARL of Boston Assistant Adoption Manager Melissa Tanguay, over 230 cats have been spayed or neutered through these special clinics in 2010.

Top photo: League volunteer Margaret Wirth provides post-op treatment to a cat.

Bottom photo: L to R: League Human Resources Manager Sally Pelrine, volunteer Jane Urban and League President Jay Bowen check cats in prior to surgery.

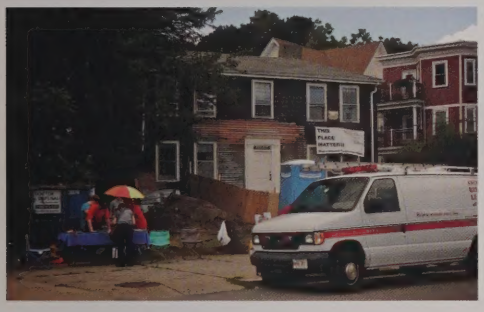
RIDE FOR THE RESCUE

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD H. PERRY HATCHFIELD (CENTER) AND HIS FATHER, DR. MITCHELL TUNICK (LEFT) OF JAMAICA PLAIN ARE GREETED BY DR. GARY PATRONEK AFTER CYCLING 1,000 MILES IN 20 DAYS TO RAISE $5,000 FOR THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON. THEY DESIGNED A COASTAL ROUTE FROM SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA TO THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S DEDHAM BRANCH. PERRY, WHO TRAINED ON WEEKENDS FOR THE DEMANDING TREK, HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF DEDHAM'S TEEN VOLUNTEER GROUP.

AUDREY'S PET SUPPLY

Shoppers on Newbury Street will also be able to adopt a shelter cat, thanks to a new program that kicked off in August. On the last Saturday of every month, the Animal Rescue League of Boston will be featuring adoptable cats at Audrey's Pet Supply and Services. Audrey's owner, Brittany Bang, says she's excited to be working with the League because "We have a common goal of helping animals find homes."

L to R: Brad Fogel and Brittany Bang, co-owners of Audrey's Pet Supplies and ARL of Boston volunteers Amy Eisenman and Dann Brown.



ANNA HARRIS SMITH HOUSE

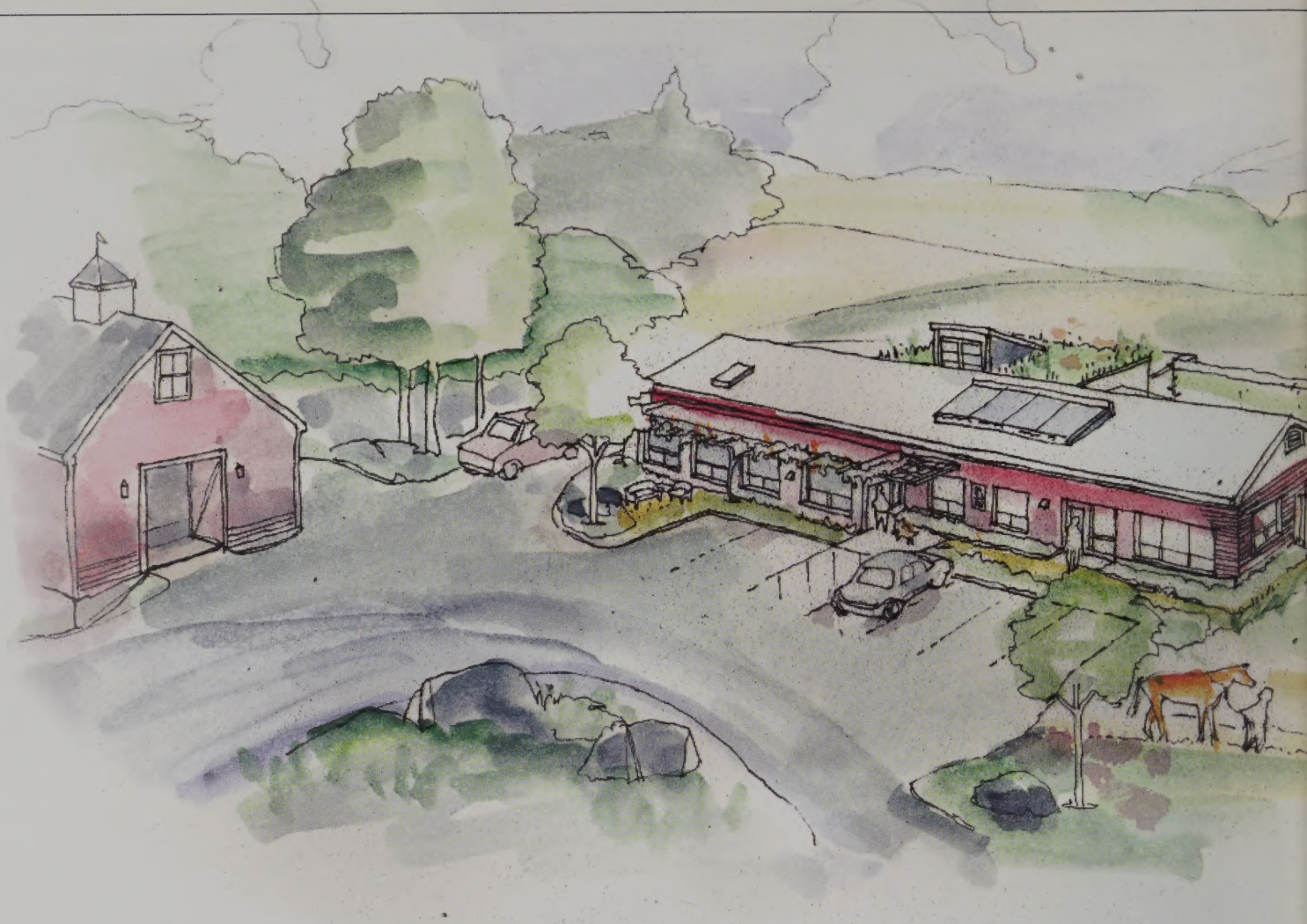
This summer the Animal Rescue League of Boston hosted a special meet-and-greet at the Dorchester home of League founder Anna Harris Smith. The home, which was built in 1804, is currently being restored to its original form through the collaboration of Historic Boston, Inc. and the North Bennet Street School's Preservation Carpentry Department. The partnership is also a "revolving fund" endowed in part by the 1772 Foundation which finances the purchase, rehabilitation and sale of historic homes that are then protected with preservation easements.

WELLNESS DONE

THE ARL OF BOSTON, the MSPCA and Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society teamed up for their third "Boston Spay/Neuter-Day for Cats" event in Dorchester this September. The League also held an on-site veterinary wellness clinic offering low-cost vaccinations, microchipping, exams and nail trimming. To date, nearly 300 cats have been spayed or neutered as part of this geographically targeted effort to reduce feline overpopulation and to assist cat owners in need. In this photo, Andrea Gouthro (right), assistant director of Community and Shelter Veterinary Medicine, examines a cat aboard the League's wellness vehicle.

A DAY TO REMEMBER

In conjunction with National Pet Remembrance Day, the League's Pine Ridge Pet Cemetery hosted a special program in September celebrating the lives of our special animal friends who are no longer with us. In this photo, Pine Ridge clients Carol and Mark Clancy place flowers on their pet's gravesite.



BUILDING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1907 on the 27-acre grounds of Founder Anna Harris Smith's summer home, the Dedham branch of the Animal Rescue League of Boston has been caring for animals for over a century. Along with housing and adopting out small animals, this site serves as a rehabilitation center for large animals and livestock.

In 1985, the Safford Memorial Animal Care and Adoption Center was opened offering adoption and rescue services. However, as the demands for services have increased and technology has advanced, it has become evident that the current facility needs major updating.

After serious deliberation, the Board of Directors has approved a fiscally responsible but comprehensive renovation plan for the Safford Center. Under the innovative guidance of ARQ Architects (a leader in humane shelter design), the plan provides the latest animal welfare and wellness features, improving the work areas and providing a more pleasant environment to facilitate adoption. Equally important, it also incorporates the latest in energy efficiency, sustainability and green technology—building for the 21st century.

"We're overjoyed at the advent of the new construction. Not only will this create a better environment for the animals in our care, it will provide designated work spaces and holding rooms, which are luxuries we've not had since the initial construction of the shelter in 1985, all while achieving a LEED Silver status for sustainable green building and development," says Dedham Shelter Manager Lisa Lagos.

"It will truly be an example of what can be accomplished through creative design and renovation of an existing structure for small shelters everywhere that can't afford to do a teardown but can afford a re-model."

"Working with ARQ Architects, who are leaders in the field of animal shelter design, will allow us to create a healthy, comfortable, soothing environment that will meet the physical, medical, behavioral, and psychological needs of animals in our care," says Dr. Gary Patronek, vice president for Animal Welfare at the ARL of Boston. "This building will meet the shelter standards of the future."

ANIMAL WELFARE FEATURES

General wellness features contribute to increased adoption rates due to a welcoming, stress-free environment for people and animals.

Green design also leads to virtual elimination of contagious disease within the shelter, minimizing the holding times and length of stay for each shelter animal.

Staff time is more efficiently utilized with new cleaning protocols and more time is available for adoption, training, and education efforts.

LEED*/GREEN FEATURES

- Lowering energy cost by 35-40% over standard new construction.
- Decreasing potable water use from 40% to 80% with rain water collection.

* *The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.*

THE SAFFORD SHELTER RENOVATION PROJECT

provides a variety of ways for donors at all levels to participate. For a copy of the fundraising brochure and more information about named gift opportunities, please contact Jay Bowen or Lisa Lagos. (Please note: Donors preferring to remain anonymous can do so.)

Animal Rescue League of Boston
President John J. Bowen
jbowen@arlboston.org
617-226-5680

Dedham Shelter Manager
Lisa Lagos
llagos@arlboston.org
Cell phone 617-293-6392

NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Dog Adoption Area	$100,000
Dog Outdoor Training Area	$40,000
Indoor Dog Get-Acquainted Room	$10,000
Dog Rooms (12)	$5,000 each
Cat Adoption Area	$50,000
Cat Cages (30)	$2,500 each
Lobby	$45,000
Multipurpose Room	$50,000
Examination Room	$25,000
Wall of Honor	$5,000

Back left to right: Scott Linari, Animal Rescue League of Boston Vice President of Animal Welfare Dr. Gary Patronek and Monica Linari. **Front left to right:** Dedham Manager Lisa Lagos with Lizzie – a dog available for adoption at the Dedham shelter – Jack Linari (age 9) and Eric Linari (age 6). Jack and Eric raised $800 for the League's Dedham shelter by donating the proceeds from "Jack and Eric's Pirate Lemonade" stand which they operated this summer at the Dedham Farmer's Market. This is the third year they've operated the stand and each year choose a different local charity.

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS

It started two years ago when, according to Jack and Eric Linari, a sign was stolen out of the ground at a local park. It continued last summer to benefit the Dedham Food Pantry. This year, it raised $769 for the ARL of Boston. Surprisingly, this philanthropic phenomenon is simple enough that almost any child could take part in it: a lemonade stand.

The entrepreneurial acumen of the young owners (Jack, 9 and Eric, 6), however, seems to have set their Pirate Lemonade Stand apart from the typical backyard hobby. For one, the boys made their cause public, setting up the stand every Wednesday at the Dedham Farmer's Market. They were careful about savoring their own product, drinking "only a couple of lemonades each time," they say. Most striking, though, is the rate at which their profits poured in; it took them a mere six days, selling drinks at only twenty-five cents per cup, to accrue a sum of money substantial for children and adults alike.

> "The boys chose the ARL of Boston's Dedham branch to donate their summer lemonade stand proceeds this year."

The boys chose the ARL of Boston's Dedham branch for their endeavor as a way of giving back: three years ago, the family brought home a Maine Coon cat from the shelter who is "fluffy, pretty, great with families, and very talkative." The boys' mother, Monica Linari, also cites the tangibility and personal feel of the Dedham branch. "It's nice to have a place to visit," she says. "Here a donation feels more concrete–you get to see things happen." She is enthusiastic about the future of the League's Dedham facility, including the upcoming construction, and says she hopes her sons will become ARL of Boston volunteers one day.

In the end, the boys attest to the power with which small steps can bring about not-so-small results. "I've learned just what you can do with a lemonade stand," Jack says. "Selling lemonade, twenty-five cents a cup, and $769. Wow."

This frail yet lively Persian, now in foster care, visits with Animal Rescue League of Boston State Humane Law Officer Dianne Begonis, a 17-year veteran of the League's Law Enforcement Department.

THE LAWS OF KINDNESS

Animal Rescue League of Boston founder Anna Harris Smith, in a regular feature of *Our Four-Footed Friends* magazine entitled "Shadows and Light of Humane Work," shared short vignettes about the day-to-day struggles and successes of the League's work, and those of the humane field in general. In that spirit, this is a story we would like to share with you to close our special cat issue.

An important question that crosses the mind of every pet owner is 'What would happen to my animals if I were unable to care for them?' While our Law Enforcement and Rescue Services Departments investigate cases of animal cruelty and neglect, they also forge a vital link in securing crucial support and services for animals who have lost a primary caretaker.

These everyday stories, like that of the Persian cat pictured above, are part of our daily work. When her elderly owner was hospitalized, Lt. Alan Borgal, director of the League's Center for Animal Protection, worked with the owner's family and friends to provide the support they needed. "When I met this cat, she was depressed and not eating," he says. The League provided emergency veterinary care, and the cat is currently being nursed back to health in one of the League's dedicated network of foster homes. She is putting on weight daily, and her foster parents report that she is enjoying the company of a new friend – a basset hound named Flash.

While these stories may not always make the evening news, they speak clearly to our mission and purpose. Animals rely on us, and we rely on you. Your donation ensures our continued ability to provide resources, support and safe haven to animals – and their human companions – in the many communities we serve.

WAYS TO GIVE:

ONLINE:
www.arlboston.org/donate

BY MAIL:
10 Chandler Street
Boston, MA 02116

BY PHONE:
617-426-9170 x615

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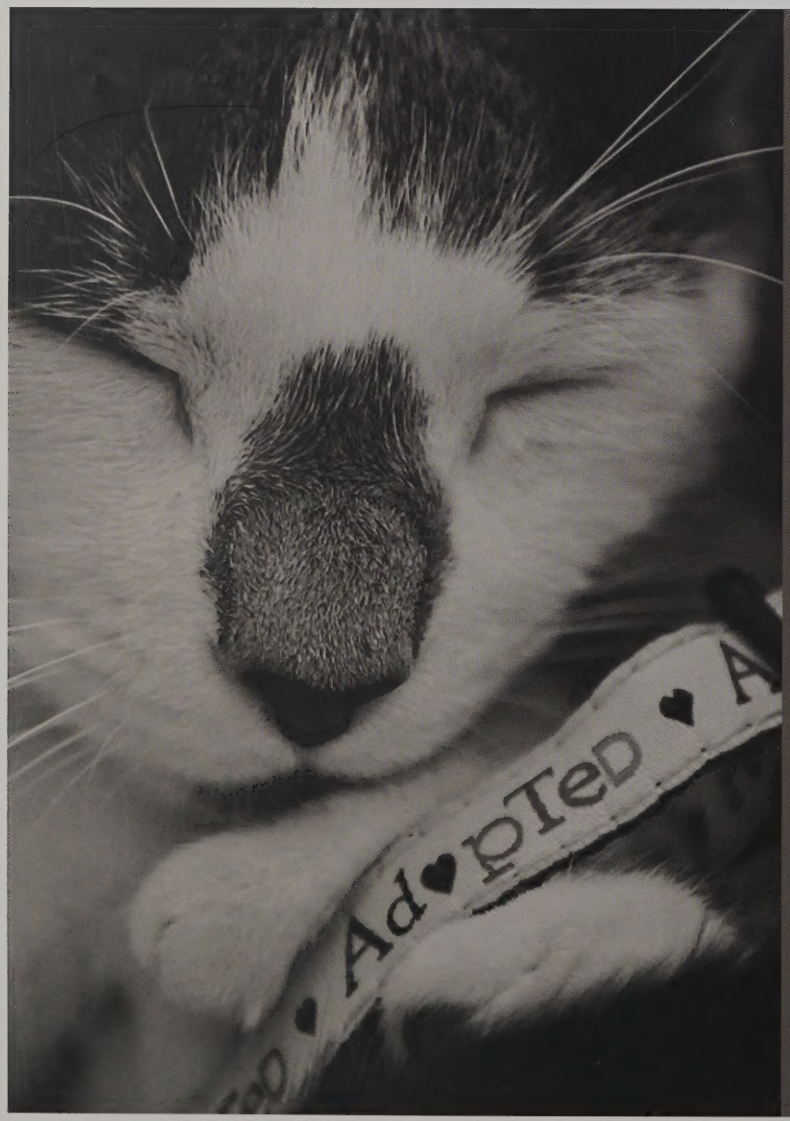

Every dollar you give helps our shelter animals get one step closer to their dream

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

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Boston, MA 02116

BY PHONE
617 426 9170 x 615

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